

5/9/71

Dear Paul (JNS),

Sorry it has taken so long to respond to your 4/27. It arrived when I was away. While away, before and since I've had some of the most unpleasant problems of all time to contend with, including with Bud, wht book and reviewers, only some of which I've probably copied you on, but I've also been going at such a pace and with ever-increasing fatigue, so I've gotten confused on what I've done and what I haven't. I am hopeful that the stack of carbons bear the initials of those to whom I've sent them, so I can bring you up to date. Anyways, with intensive work after returning, I still have more letters to answer than I can today if I do nothing else and it is early morning. So, my apologies. What needs no comment, "like Torbitt (I think I then wondered if this could have been Box, but I never wasted time even looking at it), I'll ignore. A general comment: if it is shit and stinks of "conspiracy", it is manna to Bud, and do not for a minute forget it. He covers better than JG, is less bright, but just as bullheaded and just as paranoid and ambitious for making a name for himself, personally. And, he has the funds and is not reluctant to plant stories that gratify him. If he could stand off and look at some of the things he's done, he'd shoot himself, for in other ways he is a decent man.

I've taken a different approach to what Bud sent Boggs, after I tore it all to pieces to Jim refusing to retract, for it was given to me with the implicit if not explicit understanding it was to go no further. If as is possible I get a copy from a different source, I will. But I've asked Jim to send you and SM copies for comment. If he does or does not, let me know.

Stern/Boggs: I think the thing to do is let it cool. I've given Boggs more than he needs if he is willing, and I've made more than fair offers. I will be seeing the Anderson legman who likes him, and if it can work that way, okay. Otherwise, I think we should for now leave him alone. Had I not had to take this time with Jim, I'd have seen a black Congressman and Jesse Jackson at the same time and something might have come of that. It may yet happen. The chief hangup with the Stern stuff is that it also reflects on the omission, but it does fit the distinction I've drawn (as you may recall, from the very first) between the members and the staff, which exculpates neither but does give the members a kind of out that is the political reality anyway.

You could not be more correct than in saying Hoover covered himself. This exudes from everything bearing his signature and his testimony. Thus my approach, what he denied the Members....Perhaps the time will come for approaching Stern. It has not yet. I would like to do the relevant writing first, at least for better personal comprehension.

Your "rambling" comment on what we have on LHO as an agent is correct. I do not dispute it, and I've been looking for that kind of thing I think longer than anyone else, it being an idea I presented to my then agent the weeks of the assassination. But let me ramble with ~~axiom~~ Macon thought about the flowers. One of the reasons I was so happy when you said that eventually you would do a similar book is because our approaches will be so entirely different. Yours will, inevitably, be more definitive, more scholarly, and much more conservative in approach. Mine will weave together what we do know, will interpret, will be and will say it is conjectural, and will serve an immediately-useful purpose, asking questions. Not until I begin the writing of a popular book can we decide if it is comprehensible to a mass audience. On the possibility, I disagree with you. But until I get a reaction to my approach, I can't say that it is what I'll do as soon as I can. I have a concept in mind that I think can do it. And I find that people who ordinarily eschew such things find this kind of writing as entrancing as fiction and like to pick their way through the clues and hints. Even now, with F-U, where friends who'd not take the time for my earlier books are fascinated and annoy me with endless calls....On my source on S-numbers, it is not only as you say but worse, one of the nuts blundered into this, jeopardizes the source and his source, and I've stipulated close to unacceptable conditions for any continued relationship, for I want nobody killed (the original source is that on much more than I've felt I could communicate). If it continues, it will probably result in hard stuff. What I've gotten is consistent and reason able and is, elliptically, in WW. Garrison, whether he gets going again or not, will not require

inspiration from us. In fact, it involves no crimes in his jurisdiction of which he did not already know and refused to do anything. Example: what Quiroga did is not criminal, and he laid a real egg in that interrogation, which I have or have read.

There are other FBI requests that can be made, but if I make four, I'll leave the others for others, hopefully you. I have sent you copies of those four, and I can file any time I want now. Time and complexities of life are the only problems (plus cash). Without discussing it with you, I had expected to have you go over what I do. This time, and partly for the reasons you give, I do not plan to go right from rough draft to final, single-spaced copy. I am hoping for commercial publication, which would be double-spaced copy, and in the retyping we could make carbons or use NCR paper, which is faster. You could, I hope, read it rapidly.... There is more on the Hosty material than I've been able to tell you recently. I've carried it to a comprehensible point. There is no question of the ~~xxxx~~ retyping of the page, of the use of a different machine, etc, and more on this. I've other alterations in their transcript, as Cardes for Bartis--and he was doubly CIA. And how all this part alone eaves in.

On the purging of the hq files, here in particular I would want your help, for I would be willing for the FBI to argue that it did not collect in DC for the Warren Commission 100% of what it had on LHO. That is like Hoover shooting himself. I think a simple exposition of the fact would eliminate any possibility of acceptance of such an FBI yarn, esp when woven with the 544, deb, etc things. And what ⁺ pointed out in O in NO, that the denials were neither to the point nor total, even in personnel (as no aff from Kaack). And please continue looking for clues as to the agent who was with Wugley. Right now I'd say de. ^B or Kaack, and I have a witness who has material on precisely this for me when the conditions are right, an eyewitness. Were JEH to make this defense now, I think every critical Cong and Senator would scream, most of all Boggs, who we would thus be justifying.

Think back over the years of what I've fed you, of the Bringuier perjury, of the stuff from Pena, Rodriguez, the Geracis (all three, and all on tape, and involving Ferrie, and my analysis of the declassified Ferrie docs, where I might still file a fifth FOI), and you can begin to see what I can put together, plus what I got from Henry, plus what I got from the Ward and Paul material, etc. I have sufficient sensation for the questions to be credible if they are not in all cases answered.

I think it unwise to expect any but a whitewash investigation of the FBI now. But, with what I could bring to light that might have to be faced, the prospects might be different, one of the values of present timing. And I'd like to have a heavy appendix, with such things as the original and edited Stern letters, which are so informative of the domination of the staff.

BoomBoom is what I could not remember. I think I have more than this one page from CD126. I mean not from 126, which I do, but on this investigation. Until I start digging, I'll not know, but I think all the people mentioned were interviewed, negatively. I think this may have been what P was talking about. Not having been able to go to NYC to see him, if I can't persuade him to put it on tape, I'll have to find time and means to go there, but for that I'll have to lay out more than this one thing and a safe pad, not not likely. Plus a safe car. 42 is on Core, and even what I got from him fits here, as does what I got from Lawrence and another on whom no report was ever filed. And all the KY and Jones stuff fits here. Can you spare copies of CD 244:38-43? I have two pages but my card doesn't indicate where filed. Ditto 464:27-3, which I may have from before I began carding. I interviewed her and I think I have the SEP part, but I'm not sure. It was mentioned in that story. She is sure it was LHO, whether or not it really was. If, as you say, you sent me these items, I do not have them under Connie Kaye, filed or carded.

To summarize: I disagree with you on the possibility of putting a good book together on what we now have, agree with you that it cannot now be definitive, agree that it has to be out together with care (and I think in a popular rather than a scholarly way) and feel it can, if done in the near future, do what a later, definitive work, which I would still regard

as essential, cannot do, would do much to making the definitive work a success, and can open up new materials for the public and for the second work. My fear is that once gain it would be a long book for I have an enormous amount from my personal investigations in N.O. in particular....I do have a "third man" file that in itself will read like a

detective story, with Steele, Core and others on tape on it, with the stuff I've forced out on it, with reports we both got, with the editing of the film, etc.

Because my memory has failed so, I'd appreciate it if, when we discuss these things and I've told you where I've filed them, you remind me. I'll file this Stern stuff under Agent Oswald, but I'll start a separate Stern file under it. Thus when I get the rest, I'll have a place and you'll know. My filing, because it is built around projected writing (which is so often changed) is more subjective.)

Your 4/21 As of now, assume that I will not send any of this material out. Assume that I've be giving Bud nothing, Gary has no time, Howard is working in limited areas, etc. If there is time, I'd appreciate it if you could stamp your name on the back where it would not bleed through were I to reproduce it so that if, in the future, I come across it in response to some request, I'd know to refer to you. This may take too much time, I know. I strongly ~~xx~~ encourage you to send nothing to any one of Bud's people, for they know little, imagine much, and to simplify, learn the lesson from Davison (which also fits, remember?). I think you would be well advised to take me quite literally. They are hopeless and irresponsible as only one in our history equals. I know you have your relationship with Lifton, but to me he is in some ways worse. And I've never heard of any swap in which he doesn't get much for little.

On the cost, you should soon have a check for most of it. After you get the bill and this check, please let me know what the balance is. While our situation is worse than usual, considering that my wife did work for three months and I had some income from the advance, I'll want to try and pay the small balance. I do appreciate these things you do, do appreciate your understanding of our position as a consequence of this work, but I want to avoid your denying yourself. You are young and I no longer am. You need and should want things that no longer interest me. And there may always be the time in the future when the situation is worse. I am, at the moment, not in the best spirits because of the abandonment of any work with F-U by the publisher. It could have gone and could have made reprint, which is now impossible unless some of the things on which I'm working come to pass. They are difficult, some think impossible, but as you know, I have recognized few things as properly so described. I've not always been wrong. Jerry has been great on the p.r., as Hal used to be out there.

I think that on the first page I omitted a sheet of carbon for the JNS copy. I do not think it necessary to his understanding of what follows, but if you or he feel otherwise, I'd appreciate your lending that to him. I'm almost out of the paper and can't afford a new supply now.

Thanks, and best